

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Nashville Public Library, winner of the 2010 National Medal for Museum and Library Services.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to commend those public institutions of learning and culture who, through their extraordinary efforts, win national acclaim and recognition; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Public Library is one such praiseworthy institution, which has served as a place of learning and enrichment for the good people of Nashville and Davidson County for many years; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of their extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions to the community it serves, the Nashville Public Library was recently awarded the highest honor awarded to American libraries, the prestigious 2010 National Medal for Museum and Library Services; and

WHEREAS, awarded annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, this distinguished honor was presented to representatives of the Nashville Public Library at a special ceremony held in Washington, D.C., on December 17, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,000 museums; its mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas; and

WHEREAS, maintaining a collection of over 1.6 million items, the Nashville Public Library consists of the downtown Main Library and twenty branch libraries across Davidson County that offer books, periodicals, DVDs, CDs, audio books, and downloadable books as well as being home to 600 public-use computers, free art exhibits, educational programs, other

special services, and the tremendous marionette shows by Wishing Chair Productions, enjoyed by over 6,000 children every month; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Public Library was chosen for this wonderful honor as the result of its service to its constituents through innovative programs and its many efforts to further literacy, learning and cultural understanding in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, led by Donna Nicely, Library Director, the staff and volunteers of the Nashville Public Library have compiled a tremendous record of service to the Nashville community through numerous innovative programs which received special recognition by the Institute of Museum and Library Services; and

WHEREAS, such innovative programs and offerings include Bringing Books to Life, which travels to local day care centers to share a literature-based puppet show on the importance of reading; Limitless Libraries, which partners with Metro Nashville public high schools to provide books and materials directly to students at their schools; and the Civil Rights Room, which allows library patrons to explore the history of race relations in Nashville as it shows the stories of the Nashville students and citizens who took part in the sit-ins, freedom rides, and other historic moments during the 1950s and 1960s; and

WHEREAS, also recognized for its work to advance global cultural understanding, the Nashville Public Library drew on its distinguished legacy of puppet shows and productions as well as its relationship with Nashville Sister City Magdeburg, Germany - home of Europe's oldest and most well-respected puppet theater – to hold and produce the first International Nashville Puppet Festival which brought troupes from China, Italy, Germany, France, and the United States to Nashville for a glorious weekend of shows with over 15,000 children and adults in attendance; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to acknowledge and applaud one of Tennessee's exemplary public institutions, the Nashville Public Library, and commend its immeasurable contributions to the citizenry of Nashville and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Library Director Donna Nicely and the staff and volunteers of the Nashville Public Library upon winning the 2010 National Medal for Museum and Library Services as we salute their distinguished community outreach programs and continuing efforts to provide outstanding service to all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.